

## Redescription of *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Idiocerinae) and new distributional records from Argentina

PARADELL, SUSANA L.<sup>1</sup> & GIMENA DELLAPÉ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>División Entomología, Museo de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, UNLP, Paseo del Bosque, B1900FWA La Plata, Argentina. Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la provincia de Buenos Aires (CIC). E-mail: paradell@fncnym.unlp.edu.ar

<sup>2</sup>Centro Nacional Patagónico, CENPAT-CONICET, Bvd. Brown 2915, U9120ACDA Puerto Madryn, Argentina. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET). E-mail: gimenadellape@gmail.com

### Redescripción de *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Idiocerinae) y nuevos registros de distribución geográfica de la Argentina

**RESUMEN.** *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank) es el único representante de la subfamilia Idiocerinae de la Argentina y habita sobre "álamos" en la región oeste de las provincias de Mendoza, Neuquén y Río Negro. En esta contribución se provee una redesccripción morfológica detallada de la especie para facilitar su identificación. Algunos caracteres de la genitalia femenina son descritos por primera vez. Adicionalmente se dan a conocer nuevos registros del sudeste del país.

**PALABRAS CLAVE.** Auchenorrhyncha. Chicharritas. Salicaceae. *Populus* sp.

**ABSTRACT.** *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank) is the only representative of the subfamily Idiocerinae in Argentina, which inhabits on "poplars" in the western part of Mendoza, Neuquén and Río Negro provinces. In this contribution, we provide a detailed morphological redescription of this species for easy identification from material collected in Argentina; some characters of the female genitalia are described for the first time. Additionally, new records from the southeastern region of this country are provided.

**KEY WORDS.** Auchenorrhyncha. Leafhoppers. Salicaceae. *Populus* sp.

## INTRODUCTION

Cicadellidae is one of the largest families of insects with more than 22.000 known species, which is divided currently in 26 subfamilies (Dietrich, 2004, 2005). Idiocerinae is one of the smallest subfamilies of Cicadellidae, with approximately 90 genera and 750 known species worldwide (Dietrich, 2000; Zhang & Viraktamath, 2009), of which 67 species are represented in the Neotropical region (Freytag & Sharkey, 2002).

The members of Idiocerinae are arboreal forms, phloem feeders, and mainly breed on trees and shrubs (Viraktamath, 2007). This subfamily includes economically important species

causing serious losses to fruit crops as *Idioscopus nitidulus* (Walker), *I. clypealis* (Lethierry), *I. nagpurensis* (Pruthi), *Amritodus atkinsoni* (Lethierry) and *A. brevistylus* Viraktamath affecting "mango" *Mangifera indica* L. (Anacardiaceae) in certain parts of the Oriental and Australian regions (Gnaneswaran *et al.*, 2007; Zhang & Viraktamath, 2009). Many species are known to be associated with the dominant tree genus *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae) in New Zealand and Australia (Evans, 1963; Knight, 2010). In South America (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina), species of Idiocerinae occur mostly on Salicaceae such as "poplars" (*Populus* spp.) and "willows" (*Salix* spp.) (Metcalfe,

1964; Viraktamath, 2007; Ortego *et al.*, 2011).

In Argentina the subfamily Idiocerinae was recorded by Dapoto *et al.* (2011) and Ortego *et al.* (2011). They reported the occurrence of a large number of specimens of *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank) flying towards the light sources inside homes and shops causing severe inconvenience to residents and tourists, as well as on "Creole poplar" (*Populus nigra* L.) causing significant defoliations and yellowing in Mendoza, Neuquén and Río Negro provinces. *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* is also distributed in Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and North America, and has been associated with the transmission of the disease of decay of "poplar" (*Poplar Phytoplasma Diclain*) in France and Italy (Cousin *et al.*, 1999; Wientraub & Beanland, 2006; Knight, 2010). How *R. decimusquartus* was introduced in Argentina is not known but one possibility is that it arrived in propagation material of *P. nigra* (cuttings) as wintering egg from Europe (Ortego *et al.*, 2011) as was reported for North America (Hamilton, 1980).

Freytag (1965) provides a general description of *R. decimusquartus* and describes some characters of the male genitalia, and pygofer and seventh sternum of female. In this contribution, we describe for the first time characters of the female genitalia neglected until now, these are: first valvulae and valvifer, second valvulae and valvifer, and sculpturing pattern area of second valvulae. We also provide a detailed morphological description of this species for an easy identification and new distributional records.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material studied came from samplings conducted by the authors in southeastern Argentina, as well as specimens submitted by researchers from the southwest of the country. For morphological study, 10 specimens of each sex were measured from the anterior margin of crown to apex of the wings. The entire abdomen was dissected and clarified in a solution of 10% KOH at room temperature for observation of the genital structures. Photographs were taken using a Cannon Rebel T3i digital camera mounted on a Zeiss stereomicroscope. Morphological terminology follows Freytag (1965) and Dietrich (2005). The studied specimens were deposited in the Entomological

Collection of Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLP).

## RESULTS

### *Rhytidodus* Fieber

*Rhytidodus* Fieber, 1872: 8.

Type-species: *Cicada decimaquarta* Schrank 1776, by subsequent designation of Zachvatkin 1953: 213.

*Rhytidodus* is distinguished by the length and position of the pronotal suture; pygofer on lateral view with a lateral expansion; apophysis of style curved outward; and aedeagus with processes on the shaft (Freytag, 1965).

### *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank)

*Cicada decimaquarta* Schrank, 1776:137.

*Jassus scurra* Germar, 1837: 11.

*Jassus crenatus* Germar, 1837: 10.

*Idiocerus germari* Fieber, 1868: 451.

*Idiocerus scurra fulvus* Rey, 1894: 30.

*Idiocerus gemmisimulans* Leonard & Crosby, 1915: 542.

*Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank) Nast, 1972: 215.

Schrank (1776) describes this species using just a few characters, mainly of coloration. Later, Freytag (1965) provides a general description and describes some characters of male genitalia, and pygofer and seventh sternum of female. Knight (2010) cites this species in the checklist of the leafhoppers recorded in the Pacific region.

**Male** (Fig. 1). Length: 6.5-9 mm. General color pattern olive brown, with darker brown markings on head, pronotum and scutellum. Head width 2,6 mm, crown yellowish, rounded and very slightly produced in middle; width between ocelli 1,08 mm, width between antennae 1,41 mm; postclypeus broadly rounded wider than long, anteclypeus twice longer than wide, with median concavity in the apex. Pronotum rugose, anterior margin of disc yellowish, laterally with two black elongated oblique spots, lateral margins dark. Scutellum yellow, sometimes with two brownish enlarged lateral spots, disc with two dark rounded spots. Abdomen black in dorsal view, yellow in lateral areas, and yellowish in ventral view. Forewing olive brown, venation yellowish with scores, spots dark distributed irregularly, wide appendix. First sternal complex (Fig.

3) with sternal bar thin, strong and sclerotized, dorsal apodeme well developed, rounded and sclerotized, with one small and sclerotized spine on ventral margin; medial notch shallow. Second sternal complex (Fig. 3) with dark quadrate and short processes tongue-sharp, margins parallel, obliquely truncate tips, reaching third segment. Genitalia: valve in lateral view triangular, microsetae on disc, rounded apex. Pygofer (Fig. 4) rectangular or triangular, truncate-rounded terminally in lateral view, with uniseriate group of four to six macrosetae on posteroventral margin, with a whitish rounded lateral expansion (Fig. 5), surface striate, a few microsetae on the disk.

Subgenital plate (Fig. 10) elongated, narrow, lightly curved to half apex, expanded apically, extending beyond the pygofer, fine and short setae on the disc, very long and thin numerous setae, irregularly arranged forming a tuft at the apex rounded. Style (Fig. 8) narrow throughout its length, basal part strongly sclerotized, apophysis abruptly curved posteroventrally, apical third with microsetae on the outer margin, row of finer subapical macrosetae along inner margin, from start curved until apex, microsetae disperse on the disc, rounded denticles on the dorsal margin until third apical, apex with one sclerotized and curved spine (Fig. 9). Connective (Fig. 7)

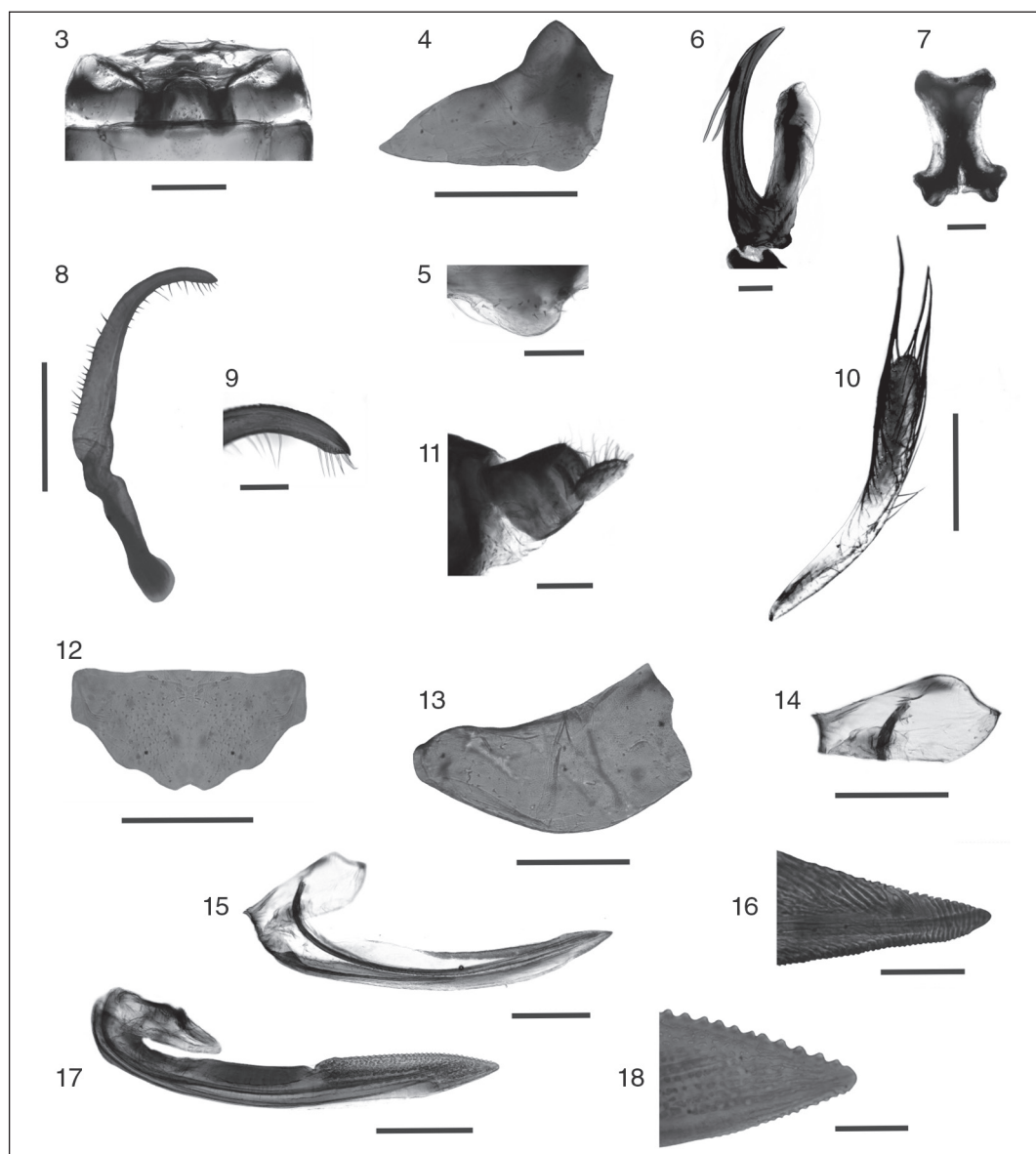


**Figs. 1-2.** *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schränk). 1, male; 2, female. Scale: 1mm.

narrows, horseshoe-shaped. Aedeagus (Fig. 6) in lateral view, socle small, apodeme expanded until third apical to shaft, shaft curved to apex, a pair of apical processes long, thin and parallel directed anterior and ventrally, reaching beyond the mid-shaft; gonopore rounded and apical. Anal segment (Fig. 11) developed with sclerotized lateral margins.

**Female** (Fig. 2). Length: 7.5-10 mm. Shape

and general color pattern similar to male but lighter, less prominent spots. Genitalia: seventh sternum (Fig. 12) wider than long, broadly rounded, disc with numerous microsetae, posterior margin with a median deep notch V-shaped inverted, deeply sinuous on both sides, lateral angles rounded and pronounced. Pygofer (Fig. 13) in lateral view, rectangular concavely rounded towards the apex. Valvulae of ovipositor ex-



**Figs. 3-18.** Male: 3, sternal complex; 4, pygofer; 5, lateral expansion of pygofer; 6, aedeagus; 7, connective; 8, style; 9, apex of style; 10, subgenital plate; 11, anal segment. Female: 12, seventh sternum; 13, pygofer; 14, first valvifer; 15, first valvulae of ovipositor; 16, apex of first valvulae; 17, second valvulae of ovipositor; 18, apex of second valvulae. Scales 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17: 0,5mm; 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 18: 0,1mm.



ceed length of pygofer. First valvula (Fig. 15) thin along its length, apex with countless acute microteeth on dorsal and ventral margins, apex acute (Fig. 16); well delimited sculptured sub-marginal area since it begins to curve toward the apical third on the apical area. First valvifer (Fig. 14) rectangular, angles rounded with one sclerotized spine in the apex. Second valvula (Fig. 17) thin in basal region, with a deep notch in "V" sharp on the dorsal margin in the base of the apical area, widening towards the apex abruptly, dorsal margin with numerous strong and small rounded teeth, on the apical third in ventral margin with countless denticles, narrow-shaped apex (Fig. 18); sculpturing pattern with rounded large, well delimited maculae separate each one and row regularly arranged on the apical sculpturing area. Second valvifer ovoid and strongly sclerotized, with a group of strong microsetae in medial area.

**Remarks.** *R. decimusquartus* is distinguished

by the pygofer of male with rounded lateral expansion; subgenital plate elongated, with very long and thin setae irregularly arranged forming a tuft; basal portion of style strongly sclerotized, apex with one spine, sclerotized and curved; aedeagus with a pair of apical processes long, thin and parallel directed anterior and ventrally, reaching beyond the mid-shaft; second valvula of female with a deep notch V-shaped sharp in middle of dorsal margin; dorsal margin with numerous strong and small rounded teeth, on the apical third in ventral margin with countless denticles, sculpturing pattern with rounded large, well delimited maculae.

#### Distribution in Argentina (Fig. 19) **Mendoza:**

Malargüe, Uspallata, San Rafael, Guaymallén, Luján de Cuyo. **Neuquén:** Confluencia, Centenario, Vista Alegre, Huinganco, Andacollo. **Río Negro:** Cinco Saltos, Cipolletti, General Roca, General Fernandez Oro, Ingeniero Huergo, Villa Regina, Pomona (Dapoto *et al.*, 2011; Ortego *et al.*, 2011). New record for **Chubut** province: Puerto Madryn, Gaiman, and Dique Ameghino.

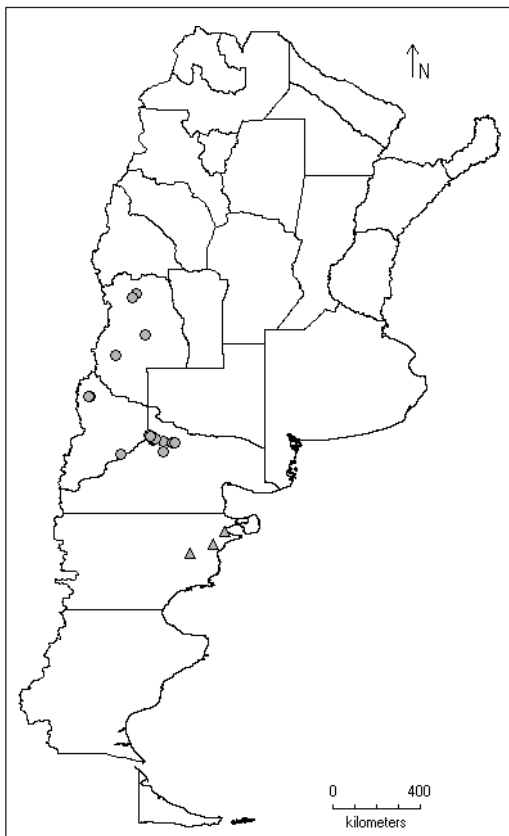
#### **Material examined. ARGENTINA. Mendoza:**

Uspallata, IV-2008, Corbalán V. leg., 1 male, 3 females; same locality, V-2008, Corbalán V. leg., 1 male, 5 females; same locality, on *Populus* sp., Bertolucci A. leg., 15 males, 11 females; Malargüe, IV-2008, on *P. nigra* var. *Italica*, Corbalán V. leg., 1 male, 6 females. **Río Negro:** Villa Regina, General Roca, V-2010, on *Populus* sp., Fernandez D. leg., 2 females, 1 nymph III, 2 nymph V; same locality, 19-V-2010, on *Populus* sp., Dapoto leg., 1 male; Alto Valle, 10-V-2011, Bouvet J.P.R. leg., 5 males, 3 females.

**Chubut:** Puerto Madryn, 1-V-2012, Dellapé G. leg., 1 male; same locality, 22-IV-2014, Dellapé G. leg., 1 male, 3 females; Gaiman, 18-VII-2012, within *Allium ampeloprasum* var. *porrum* (L.) J. Gay with *Populus* sp. acting as a wind curtain, Dellapé G. leg., 11 males, 14 females; Dique Ameghino, 6-II-2014, on *Populus* sp., Dellapé G. leg., 10 males, 9 females.

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**Fig. 19.** Distribution of *Rhytidodus decimusquartus* (Schrank) in Argentina: ● known distribution; ▲ new records.

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